

TESTIMONY OF JOSHUA SEAVEY—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Thursday, February 10, 2011 - Support for SB 9

My name is Joshua Seavey. I'm 27 years old. I'm here to address Proposed Bill No. 9, "An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility, to assist Medicaid clients by increasing the Medicaid income eligibility level."

I'm currently on spenddown and it's a complete mess for me. I don't understand it. I have a very difficult time getting in touch with my DSS worker. I get no communication in the mail. I never get notified when I'm going on spenddown and I don't find out until I go to an appointment or pick up a prescription and I get told I'm not covered. This is unacceptable. Medication without insurance can cost \$200, \$300 or even more. I am currently unemployed and I get Social Security Disability Income, which is only \$886.00 a month. So the cost of my medications can be at least ¼ of my monthly income. Even when I am working I can only work part time because I'm only allowed a certain amount of income every month. In other words, I can't afford this. I have obsessive-compulsive disorder and I need medication to function throughout the day. This situation is hurting me and lots of other people who can't afford private insurance and need state insurance. This has caused financial stress for me as I have other bills to pay; and with such a limited income it is difficult enough for me to budget my money without having to pay for medication on top of that. This has caused me emotional and mental anxiety, wondering how I'm going to pay my medical bills along with all my other bills. I'm sure the same is true for many others as many other people on Medicaid are in the same situation.

I am very happy that this bill has been proposed, and I'm sure that many, many others in my situation are happy as well. I respectfully urge you to pass this bill, and I thank you for your time and allowing me this opportunity to speak before this committee.